

1643-1938

"Hampden"—New H.P. Bomber Christened and Launched

THE new Handley Page medium bomber is about half the size of the Harrow, yet carries a greater military load at a much greater speed. Thus the new Air Minister, Sir Kingsley Wood, illustrating the progress made in military aircraft production. The occasion of his remark was the christening of the first production type at Radlett aerodrome last Friday by Viscountess Hampden. The Air Minister, in the course of his speech, also disclosed that considerable extensions of the Handley Page works at Cricklewood have become necessary in order to cope with the large orders placed by the Air Ministry.

Before cutting the ribbon with a pair of silver scissors, Viscountess Hampden expressed the hope that the spirit of John Hampden, "the defender of civil liberties," might enter into those whose duty it would be to fly in the machine. The date chosen for the christening of the Hampden was the anniversary of the death of John Hampden, which took place at Thame on June 24, 1643.

After the christening ceremony the Hampden was demonstrated by Capt. Cordes, and particularly noteworthy was the power of the lateral control when the machine was "hanging on its slots and flaps."

The demonstration was attended by many members of the Parliamentary Air Committee, by many R.A.F. officers of



"Flight" photograph.

Exalted interest in the H.P. Hampden. From left to right: Mr. J. Baum, Mayor of St. Albans; Mr. S. R. Worley, chairman of Handley Page, Ltd.; Sir Kingsley Wood, Secretary of State for Air; Viscountess Hampden; Viscount Hampden; and Mr. F. Handley Page. The internal structure is revealed by the complete disappearance (photographically) of the moulded Perspex windows.

high rank, and by a number of foreign air attachés. At a luncheon in a marquee on the aerodrome Mr. F. Handley Page welcomed the guests, and Viscount Hampden, Lord-Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, responded. He recalled that it was said of John Hampden (of whom Viscount Hampden is a direct descendant) that he did not readily draw his sword, but that when he did he threw away the scabbard. He hoped that the Hampden aeroplane would never be used in anger, and expressed the view that it was easier to make a pact to prevent war than to agree on refraining from bombing civilians.



"Flight" photograph.

The Handley Page Hampden medium bomber (two Bristol Pegasus) posing for its portrait after last Friday's ceremony.

Rolls-Royce Progress

MEN are wanted at once for training at Crewe and Derby for the new Rolls-Royce aero engine factory at Crewe. Mr. John Morris has been appointed works manager.

Incidentally, the Rolls-Royce balance sheet, to be presented at the annual meeting to-day, shows a net profit of £393,259, as compared with £390,237 in 1936.

Pressure-cabin Experiments at Hanworth

IT is announced that the manufacturing licence of the Marshall supercharger has been taken over by Sir George Godfrey

and Partners, Ltd., of Hampton Road, Hanworth, Middlesex (Feltham 2831-2). This supercharger is of the Roots' type and is said to have an enviable reputation for reliability and efficiency in the automobile world. Sir George Godfrey and Partners, Ltd., consider it would have considerable application to pressure-cabin work, and they are hoping to shortly commence some experiments along these lines.

For Glasgow Show Visitors

VISITORS to the Empire Exhibition, Glasgow, may like to know that copies of *Flight* and its associated journals may be purchased on the *Daily Record* stand.